The Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act could not be notified in May, 2001 after the President accorded his approval on the Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Bill. Jharkhand being a newly created State have reported to hold Panchayat election by the end of this year. The State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Jharkhand have been requested to constitute SFC at the earliest.

More fund for construction of roads in tribal areas under PMGSY

3161. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the villages in the tribal areas are still unconnected with fair weather roads contributing to their backwardness;

(b) whether it is also a fact that under the PMGSY the share of funds going to the tribal areas is too meagre in proportion to their backwardness and poverty; and

(c) whether Government propose to allocate more funds for these tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) The Ministry do not have the number of Unconnected Habitations in Tribal areas. While the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana aims to provide road connectivity, through good all-weather roads, to all Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons, in case of Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the efforts is to connect Habitations with a populations of 250 persons and above.

The allocation of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is made to the States and the distribution of funds among the districts is done by the respective State Governments.

Districts in Bihar covered under ARWSP

†3162. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of districts of Bihar State covered in the above said programme;

(c) whether Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts of Bihar have been selected for being covered under the said Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject and schemes for providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations are implemented by the States. Taking into account the magnitude of the problem and to accelerate the pace of coverage of problem villages, the Government of India introduced Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) as one of the programmes to supplement the efforts of the States and the Union Territories. The ARWSP is for all districts of all the States including those in Bihar, to be implemented by the respective State Governments.

A part of the ARWSP funds is utilised for implementation of Sector Reform projects in 63 pilot districts across 26 State identified by the State Governments to institutionalise community participation in rural water supply activities so as to ensure sustainability of the systems and sources used for providing drinking water supply Vaishali district of Bihar is also one of such pilot districts. The project in respect of Vaishali has been sanctioned at provisionally estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores and Rs. 11.22 crore has been released as first instalment. The project implementation in Vaishali district is at its initial stage.

Cost of JPM Act 1987

3163. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the provisions of JPM Act 1987 have proved very costly to the domestic consumers and the National Economy;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any cost analysis since 1987 if so, the details thereof;